

Amendments to the Claims

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously amended) A polypeptide consisting essentially of amino acid 25 to amino acid 250 of full length human erythropoietin receptor protein, said polypeptide having a specific affinity for human erythropoietin, and wherein said polypeptide has a molecular weight of 29 kDa.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A ~~A~~ binding assay composition comprising:

- (a) a solid phase reagent; and
- (b) the polypeptide of claim 3 operably coupled to said reagent.

6-9. (Canceled)

10. (Withdrawn) A method for obtaining an antibody having specific binding affinity for human erythropoietin receptor polypeptide, said method comprising:

contacting a non-human mammal with a purified preparation of an extracellular domain fragment of human erythropoietin receptor polypeptide consisting essentially of amino acid 25 to 250 of a human erythropoietin receptor extracellular domain, wherein the fragment contains only native human erythropoietin receptor and has a molecular weight of 29 kDa, and

collecting said antibody from said non-human animal.

11. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 3 wherein the full length human erythropoietin receptor protein is encoded by a full length human erythropoietin receptor DNA and the polypeptide consisting essentially of amino acid 25 to amino acid 250 of the full length human erythropoietin receptor protein corresponds to the region of the full length human erythropoietin receptor DNA defined on the 5' end by a forward primer SEQ ID 1 and defined at the 3' end by reverse primer SEQ ID 2.

12. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 11 wherein the full length human erythropoietin receptor DNA is LAP 37.

13. (Previously presented) A polypeptide consisting of a free human erythropoietin receptor extracellular domain, said polypeptide having a specific affinity for human erythropoietin, and wherein the human erythropoietin receptor extracellular domain is expressed from a region of a full length human erythropoietin receptor DNA defined on the 5' end by a forward primer SEQ ID 1 and defined at the 3' end by a reverse primer SEQ ID 2.

14. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 13 wherein the full length human erythropoietin receptor DNA is from LAP 37 SEQ ID 4.